

VZCZCXR06085
PP RUEHQU
DE RUEHPU #0893 1351943

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 151943Z MAY 07

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6104
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1535
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 1354
RUEHQU/AMCONSUL QUEBEC PRIORITY 0809
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1220

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 000893

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/EX AND WHA/CAR
S/CRS
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS AID FOR LAC/CAR
INR/IAA (BEN-YEHUDA)
WHA/EX PLEASE PASS USOAS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PREL PHUM HA

SUBJECT: ATTACKS ON JUSTICE MINISTER GENERATES PUSH-BACK

REF: A. PORT-AU-PRINCE 869

1B. PORT-AU-PRINCE 848

11. The chamber of deputies' special committee of special enquiry on May 11 released a report concluding that Justice Minister Rene Magloire had lied about summoning the deceased judge Hughes St. Pierre to Port-au-Prince. The committee's report cited six interviews with St. Pierre's family members and colleagues in Gonaives who claimed that St. Pierre told them that he was traveling to Port-au-Prince at the minister's request. In response, Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis denied that St. Pierre's death had any connection to the La Scierie case (reftels) and called for an independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the judge's death. Other deputies criticized the manner in which the special committee released its findings. Laurore Edouard (UNION) declared that the special committee does not have official standing since the procedures to appoint such a committee were never initiated in the lower chamber. Eloune Doreus (OPL) concurred that an inquiry may be appropriate, but insisted that the special committee cannot be seen as an official organ of the lower house.

12. Comment. Apart from trying to link the judge's death to a government conspiracy to absolve the La Scierie defendants, Youri Latortue and his allies in the Senate appear to be using this opportunity to derail justice reform legislation. Latortue has already publicly stated that the minister's proposed legislation is "chaotic," and is reportedly preparing an alternative proposal. (Post will report fully on the status of justice reform septel) Under the current circumstances, Magloire is unlikely to appear anytime soon before the parliament for any reason, whether to answer questions relating to St. Pierre or to push for reform. In the meantime, if his opponents can damage his credibility, that damage is likely to rub off on his proposed legislation as well. End comment.

SANDERSON